

FULLERTON ARBORETUM COMMISSION

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING March 21, 2012

The 170th meeting of the Fullerton Arboretum Commission was held in the Pavilion classrooms at the Fullerton Arboretum.

Commissioners present: Eugene Jones, Kay Miller, Steve Murray, Tony Florentine, Joe Felz and Keith Boyum

Others present: Gregory Dymont, Director
Monique Shay, University Counsel
Chris Barnhill, Living Collections Curator
Mary Dalessi, Friends President
Becki Hartke, Education
Anne Thiele, Recorder

Jones called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve minutes of December 14, 2011 – Jones

Minutes submitted and approved.

2. Review 2010 – 2011 Audit – Dymont

Dyment said the Fullerton Arboretum Authority's auditors', Caporicci and Larson have been sold to Marcum Stonefield a division of Marcum LLP but are still using the Caporicci and Larson name. Florentine asked if the cost of the audit went up and Dyment said the audit went up about \$1,500.

The Draft Audit was reviewed and Felz said he would like to discuss page 10, which states, "The City of Fullerton will assume the duty as a successor agency for the Redevelopment Agency". Felz said this information is correct and in transition. The contract between the Fullerton Redevelopment Agency and the Fullerton Arboretum Authority is on a list as enforceable contracts and is going to the Oversight Committee meeting on March 29th. Miller asked how long before a decision will be made. Felz said after the Oversight Committee's decision on March 29th, it will go to the State for final decision and should have about a two week turnaround.

3. Review Financial Worksheets – Miller

2011 – 2012 Financial Worksheets reviewed. (Exhibit B)

Murray said the description of the Arboretum on page 9 of the draft audit states, in part, "the purpose of the Arboretum Authority is to operate as a public ecological preserve which serves as an educational, research and recreational facility", and asked why the Education Budget is lower than the Garden and Administration Budget if education is a major role of the Arboretum Authority. Murray said Cal State Campus has a strategic plan in place that governs how much money is spent toward education. Murray said a strategic plan would enable priorities to be determined. Dyment said the Arboretum has a strategic which includes goals and objectives. Murray said the Arboretum should have a 5 year data collecting plan and build a resource tracking system that would present a case to the City and University that would prove the Arboretum's worth.

4. Action Item: Proposal to raise Facility Rental fees - Dalessi

Dalessi said it's been two years since the Friends have increased rental fees and are proposing a minimal increase for 4 – 6 hour events only. (Exhibit C)

**MSC – Jones motioned to approve Facility Rental Increase.
Seconded by Murray and carried.**

Florentine asked how these rates compared with competing venues and Dalessi said the Friends facility rates were in the middle. Boyum suggested raising the rates again next fall depending on the demand for our site.

Felz amended the motion to raise rates again in ten months. Jones agreed to have the Friends report back in ten months. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Director's Report – Dyment

Dyment said CSUF Professor, Jidong Huang from Electrical Engineering, will be presenting a talk on the East Coast about the Location Based System he demonstrated with Arboretum staff, Peter Uys at the March Commission meeting.

Dyment said the Friends will be hosting a new event, "Brews, Blues 'n BBQ" on August 25th at 5:30 pm.

Dyment said the Fullerton Arboretum was listed in the Where Magazine under "30 Top Things to Do in Orange County".

Dyment talked about the 'Arboretum needs list', supported by the Friends, and said the installation of electrical outlets at the pavilion tree area has been completed, two new John Deere Gators were purchased for \$14,000 and a moveable wall system for the museum was also purchased for \$35,000.

Dyment said Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services, known as FIES, held their 6th annual "Food Loving Guys" fund raiser on March 18th. Arboretum employee, Jonathan Davis, won first place in the 'Appetizer' category and 1st place in the 'People's Choice Award'.

Dyment said the CSUF Geography Club is running the 200 mile Ragnar Relay on April 20th and 21st to raise awareness for Earth Week and are also raising money for the Fullerton Arboretum.

5. Grounds Report – Barnhill

Barnhill said the California Native Meadow has grown significantly.

Barnhill said the donated lawn at Heritage House is coming along and appreciates Don Knipp assistance in acquiring donors.

Barnhill said the Farm Stand would be open this weekend and will be open the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month.

Barnhill spoke about a grant submitted to Beckman Coulter Foundation in the amount of \$7,500 to paint Oak Hall Facility and add benches and tables to the Children's Garden.

Barnhill said Professor Jochen Schenk's student Sarah Taylor is conducting plant physiology research on the grounds.

Barnhill said Dr. Sean Walker's Entomology Class is collecting and identifying insects at the Arboretum for their course requirements.

Barnhill thanked the Friends for the \$3,600 used to pay for the trimming of the palm trees at the area around the Heritage House.

6. Education & Museum Report

Hartke, Museum Manager of Education and Interpretation reported on education and museum:

Education:

- Class attendance is up.
- Urban Farmers class made the cover of the Fullerton Edition of the OC Register
- Composting I class is this Saturday and is free to the residents of sponsoring cities: Fullerton, Brea, Santa Ana, Orange, & Buena Park.
- CEEP: Children's Environmental Education Program is heading into its last month for this school year. Because of the generosity of the Fullerton South Rotary we will be able to offer CEEP again to OC 3rd graders this fall.
- Last night the Arboretum participated in Science Night at the Fullerton Public Library- approximately 80 kids and their families attended.
- Rainbow Garden Tours begin this week. Rainbow Garden is for kids in pre-school & 1st grade the children are taken around the grounds to see the various colors of the spring flowers. Approximately 300 kids will visit this week alone.
- We are beginning to plan our July – Dec. classes

Museum:

- In February, Congressman John C. Lewis visited our museum to see the current exhibition, New Birth of Freedom, Civil War to Civil Rights. The two former students, who curated the exhibition as their Master's project, gave him a tour. Approximately 400 people visited the Arboretum that day.
- The exhibition has had over 5,000 visitors to date. It closes at the end of May.
- We are in the process of securing our next exhibition for this fall - Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy. This is a traveling exhibition that will be here September 23rd – November 18th.
- I am currently working with a CSUF graduate history conducting some preliminary research for an upcoming exhibition. These would consist of two semi- permanent exhibitions that cover the name of the museum and also include some history of the Arboretum and the Heritage House and possibly an exhibition on Victorian Gardens. Two interns are already working on the semi-permanent exhibits. One intern is doing research, while the other is assisting with collections and inventory of Heritage House.
- We have applied for an Instructionally Related Activities grant to help cover the cost of the exhibition. We are eligible for these when we involve the students in the research, development and production of our exhibitions. We have been awarded these for some of our past exhibits.

7. Friends Report – Dalessi

Dalessi said the Friends held the 2nd annual 'Lasagna Dinner Lecture' for membership holders of \$250 and above. Allan Schoenherr was the speaker at this event.

Dalessi said despite the rain storm the Tomato and Pepper sale did well and grossed \$106,000 in four days.

Dalessi said Green Scene will be April 14th and 15th with 80 confirmed vendors at this time.

Dalessi thanked Barnhill for his help in repairing the greenhouse.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.
The next Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, June 13, 2012

Beverley White
Fullerton City Clerk and
Secretary for the Fullerton Arboretum Commission

By Anne Thiele
Anne Thiele, Administrative Analyst and
Recording Secretary for the Fullerton Arboretum Commission

2010 - 2011 Draft Audit (Exhibit A)

2011 – 2012 Financial Worksheets (Exhibit B)

Proposal to raise Facility Rental Fees(Exhibit C)